

Christopher A. McLean, of Nebraska, to be Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Department of Agriculture.

Michael V. Dunn, of Iowa, to be a Member of the Farm Credit Administration Board, Farm Credit Administration for the remainder of the term expiring October 13, 2000.

(The above nominations were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed subject to the nominees' commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.)

Michael V. Dunn, of Iowa, to be a Member of the Farm Credit Administration Board, Farm Credit Administration for a term expiring October 13, 2006. (Reappointment)

(The above nomination was reported without recommendation. The nominee has agreed to appear before any duly constituted committee of the United States Senate.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. BENNETT (for himself, and Mr. HATCH):

S. 2754. A bill to provide for the exchange of certain land in the State of Utah; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself, and Mr. DOMENICI):

S. 2755. A bill to further continued economic viability in the communities on the southern High Plains by promoting sustainable groundwater management of the southern Ogallala Aquifer; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. ROBB:

S. 2756. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to establish a National Clean Water Trust Fund and to authorize the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to use amounts in the Fund to carry out projects to promote the recovery of waters of the United States from damage resulting from violations of that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. DOMENICI:

S. 2757. A bill to provide for the transfer or other disposition of certain lands at Melrose Air Force Range, New Mexico, and Yakima Training Center, Washington, to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. BRYAN, Mr. ROBB, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. ROCKFELLER, and Mrs. LINCOLN):

S. 2758. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide coverage of outpatient prescription drugs under the medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or act upon), as indicated:

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mrs. BOXER):

S. Res. 324. A resolution to commend and congratulate the Los Angeles Lakers for their outstanding drive, discipline, and mastery in winning the 2000 National Basketball Association Championship; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. ABRAHAM:

S. Res. 325. A resolution welcoming King Mohammed VI of Morocco upon his first official visit to the United States, and for other purposes; considered and agreed to.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BENNETT (for himself and Mr. HATCH):

S. 2754. A bill to provide for the exchange of certain land in the State of Utah; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

UTAH WEST DESERT LAND EXCHANGE ACT OF 2000

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, today I rise to introduce the Utah West Desert Land Exchange Act of 2000. I am pleased that my friend and colleague, Senator HATCH, joins me in introducing this important legislation.

The Utah Enabling Act of 1894 granted to the state four sections, each section approximately 640 acres in size, in each 36 square-mile township. These lands were granted for the support of the public schools, and accordingly are referred to as school trust lands. The location of these lands, as they are not contiguous to each other, has made management by the state difficult. In addition, as school trust lands are interspersed with Federal lands, Federal land designations, such as wilderness study area, have further complicated the state's ability to manage its lands.

The Utah West Desert Land Exchange Act of 2000 seeks to resolve these problems through an equal-value, equal-acreage land exchange between the state of Utah and the Federal Government. The lands that will be exchanged are located within the West Desert region of Utah. Each party will exchange approximately 106,000 acres. The Federal government will receive state lands located within wilderness study areas, lands identified as having wilderness characteristics in the Bureau of Land Management's Utah Wilderness Inventory, and lands identified for acquisition in the Washington County Habitat Conservation Plan. The state will receive federal lands that are more appropriate to carry out its mandate to generate revenue for Utah's public schools.

I would like to address two issues some have raised about this land exchange. The first issue is regarding land valuation. Both the state of Utah and the Department of the Interior firmly believe that this exchange is approximately equivalent in value. The parties have reached this conclusion after many months of thorough research and evaluation of the parcels to be exchanged. The process of research

and evaluation included review of comparable sales, mineral potential, access, and topography. One may ask why each parcel of land was not appraised individually. The answer is that for many of the 175 state parcels it would have cost more to have appraised those lands than their agreed upon value. Please note that the average value of the school trust lands outside of Washington County is \$85 per-acre; if each individual parcel was required to be formally appraised the high appraisal costs would place this land exchange, and all of its benefits, in jeopardy. Nevertheless both the state of Utah and the Department of the Interior have maintained their fiduciary responsibility by putting together a package that is equal, in both value and acreage.

The second issue that has been raised is in regard to the LaVerkin tract. Governor Leavitt, in his testimony before the United States House of Representatives Committee on Resources, stated: "I want to assure you the state of Utah will be sensitive to local needs as this tract is developed, and will comply with, and participate in, local planning and zoning decisions. Also, you can be assured the scenic views at the entrance to Zion National Park will be protected to the maximum extent practicable." It is my hope that this commitment made by Governor Leavitt will satisfy those concerned by the exchange of the LaVerkin tract.

The Utah West Desert Land Exchange Act of 2000 is the result of over 12 months of negotiations between the state of Utah and the Department of the Interior. For too long the school trust lands in the West Desert have been held captive by neighboring federal lands, unable to produce the revenue that are legally required to for Utah's schools. This bill provides that Congress with an opportunity to reduce the state of Utah's holdings in Federal wilderness study areas and other sensitive areas while increasing lands that are more suitable for long-term economic development to the state of Utah for its school children. Additionally, the Federal Government will consolidate its ownership in the existing wilderness study area, which will allow for more consistent management. This bill is a win-win proposal, and the right thing to do. I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this legislation in the remaining months of the session.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to announce my support for the West Desert Wilderness Land Exchange Act, introduced by my good friend and colleague, Senator ROBERT BENNETT. This is a proposal of importance to the citizens of my home state of Utah and to all Americans.

Utah is the home to some of the most environmentally diverse lands in the nation. These lands contain environmentally significant plants, animals,